

The Brooklyn Paper

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WHEEL BREAKERS

Heights declares bike rental a disaster before it even starts

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The bikes will finally hit the streets today, and already Brooklyn Heights condo owners have declared the so-called “CitiBike” program a disaster. The plan to bring rental bicycles to city streets and sidewalks in Brownstone Brooklyn is being met with a collective scream from residents who are filing lawsuits, crying injustice, and in some cases, vandalizing the Citibank-sponsored parking bays that some say are a danger to the public.

“The whole thing is just ridiculous,” said Keith Klein, a resident of 140 Cadman Plaza West, which

See **RACKS** on page 6

Some dodge ‘CitiBike’ bullet

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Many car-loving Southern Brooklyn residents are breathing a collective sigh of relief because they’re being spared the wrath of the city’s so-called “CitiBike” bike-rental program that is driving many Downtown Brooklynites nuts.

None of the controversial CitiBank-sponsored docking bays for the man-



powered vehicles that are being filled today across Downtown are coming to the less bike-friendly streets of Marine Park, Mill Basin, Sheepshead

Bay, Bensonhurst, and Bay Ridge. In fact, according to the bike station map on CitiBike’s website, Atlantic Avenue will be the rental bikes’ proverbial 38th Parallel, with no stations scheduled to cross beneath it.

And that’s just the way some Southern Brooklynites like it.

“I always say, Lance Armstrong does not live in Coney Island,” said

See **BIKES** on page 6



The CitiBike program was rolled out last week, and some Brooklyn Heights condo owners want to see the bikes go away.



A floating, plus-shaped pool is coming to the East River, as seen in this rendering.

WATER WORLD

East River getting test pool this summer

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

A plan to install a pool that floats atop — and gets filled with — water from the East River will get tested off the shores of Brooklyn Bridge Park later this year in hopes to prove that the dream of swimming in clean harbor H2O can become a reality.

The small floating swimming pool that is likely coming in August to the sewage-drenched river would be a prelude to a much larger, sparkling clean, Olympic-sized swimming pool in the

shape of a plus sign — that won’t arrive until at least 2015.

“It’s a science lab version of the full one,” said Dong Ping Wong, one of the pool’s three designers. “It won’t be pretty, and it won’t have the public amenities of the full one. But it will float.”

The test pool is primarily for the designers to figure out if filtration systems can handle the muck they’ll suck in when taking salt water from the tidal strait that, surprisingly, sits just west of Brooklyn shores. Because of

this, the pool will not be open to public swimmers, Wong said. But there may be select days when brave swimmers can sign a release form and jump into the pool, he said.

The designers are still scouting an exact location for the test pool. It should be about 20 to 30 feet away from the shore near Brooklyn Bridge Park — some place where the pool bottom won’t hit the riverbed.

To fund the test pool, the designers plan to unveil a Kick-

See **POOL** on page 12

Missing piece of the pie

G’pointers: City lied about parks, ‘affordable housing’

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has broken its promise to bring affordable housing to Greenpoint and Williamsburg and is letting developers run roughshod over the neighborhoods, pushing out the working class in the process, claimed more than 150 protesters rallying outside East River State Park May 22.

The group, which gathered along now upscale Kent Avenue, said thousands of poorer residents have been priced out of the rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods during the past decade in the wake of a rezoning of the waterfront that allowed condominium towers to rise up, but also



Anthony Govine asks ‘Where is our housing?’ at the affordable housing rally in Williamsburg.

promised more parks and guaranteed so-called “affordable housing” — two things residents now say the city lied about.

“It’s a shame that we’re out here trying to get the city to give us what they promised,” said protestor Debra Medina. “There are more and more buildings and there’s no communication with the people.”

Only 19 of the 1,345 “affordable” apartments the city promised in 2005, when it rezoned the North Brooklyn waterfront to residential from manufacturing, have been built, according to Jan Petersen, a member of Community Board 1, and that has forced lower-income resi-

See **HOUSING** on page 5

Pride fest on move

Annual party switches from PPW to Fifth Ave

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

The borough’s famous gay pride celebration has changed course this year to go straight down Park Slope’s booming Fifth Avenue.

After years of holding it along

Prospect Park West, Brooklyn Pride is moving its 17th annual rainbow-filled extravaganza celebrating the borough’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities to the trendy thoroughfare this June.

Brooklyn Pride’s Jerry Allred

said that the controversial Prospect Park West two-way bike lane was one of the reasons for moving over four avenues to Fifth Avenue, claiming that since its installation, vendors were having a difficult time setting up shop from Ninth

See **PRIDE** on page 12



Earl Dicks’ new nightclub in Red Hook used to be a strip club.

Hook nightspot promises to keep it classy

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

We’ll stay classy, Red Hook.

That’s the promise of the owners of the area’s new Con Amore Cabaret that opened on Commerce Street between Richards and Columbia streets late last month in the same location where the shadowy Paris Cabaret fea-

tured racy entertainment including pole dancing, endless loops of “Girls Gone Wild” videos, lap dances, and private rooms.

Instead, the husband and wife team of Earl Dicks and Cynthia Thomas-Dicks says they will target the over-30 crowd with jazz bands, rock ‘n’ roll, DJs, salsa, and stand-up comedians.

“We would have liked the option of being able to have burlesque, but the community board was dead set against any type of burlesque,” said Dicks. “That’s why we dropped the request.”

After the couple revised their business plan, Con Amore in November finally won the committee’s recommendation for a liquor license. Approval

came despite committee members’ concerns about crowd noise and loud music, as well as the venue’s troubled history.

“The stripper poles are gone — there’s no real need for stripper poles,” said Dicks. Instead, the nightclub has all new tables, chairs, and sound and lighting equipment.

But neighbors in the manufacturing zone surrounding the venue have already taken their complaints about loud music to the community board, according to some Community Board 6 members.

“It’s a music venue and I’m not sure that the sound proofing is going to be

See **CLUB** on page 6



Jessica Spence from PS 90 rides a horse on the carousel.

CONEY’S BACK!

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Summer has officially arrived in Brooklyn, because the People’s Playground is back in business!

June 21 may be weeks away, but the season started for the borough when Coney Island came back for Memorial Day week-

See **CONEY** on page 11

Soup dynamics

Hipster soupman readies for expansion

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

This beardo’s mason jar is bubbling over.

Not content to bring bacon soup only to the people of Williamsburg, Shane McGarvey has rented a commercial kitchen in Bedford-Stuyvesant and partnered with an online food seller to bring his delectable soups to the rest of the borough.

McGarvey started out making a variety of soups in his Williamsburg apartment, then personally delivering them in recyclable, quart-sized mason jars. His most popular soups use bacon as a key ingredient, and after his small business saw a surge in customers this spring, he rented the shared commercial kitchen and expanded his deliveries to Park Slope.



Shane McGarvey

McGarvey became infamous around Brooklyn in April thanks to a Brooklyn Paper story that quickly went viral — mostly with the help of detractors who saw him as a veritable poster boy of hipsterism.

The soupman embraced his sudden Internet fame, linking to the story in all of his company emails.

“I’m thinking of changing the company name to embrace some of those comments,” McGarvey said. “I wanted my tagline to be ‘Go back to Maine, beardo.’”

This week, he made an agreement with Good Eggs, a San Francisco-based company that will help him distribute throughout Brooklyn starting this summer.

“We loved Shane’s product and he

See **SOUP** on page 11



Jonathan Burkan, with daughter Laura, says that the East River State Park has become increasingly inhospitable to children.

Bye bye movies

Lights out for kid flicks in Billyburg

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A volunteer organization that screened movies for kids every summer since 2008 at East River State Park in Williamsburg is drawing the curtain on its event, claiming it is fed up with working with the state agency that refuses to help it put on the show.

Susan Anderson of Town Square Inc., a volunteer group that hosted free screenings of films such as “Wall-E,” “Ice Age,” and “Toy Story 3” on the waterfront, said her group is dimming the lights because the state, which she claims is extremely friendly to for-profit groups that use the park, refuses

See **MOVIES** on page 12

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Watchdogs: Fest wrecked P’Park

By **Natalie Musumeci**
The Brooklyn Paper

The controversial Great GoogaMooga music festival left a horrible Googa-Mark on Brooklyn’s backyard for the second year in a row, say Prospect Park watchdogs who claim that May 17 and 18’s party severely damaged the greenspace’s Nethermead.

The field is now home to muddied ruts, bare swatches of dirt, tire-track depressions brought in from tractor-trailers to load and unload equipment, and large, yellowed rectangular impressions on the grass caused by the heavy hardware that sat atop it for nearly two weeks during the time that the huge

meadow was closed to the public.

“What I saw was old damage, new damage and an accumulation of both,” said Prospect-Lefferts Gardens resident Seth Kaplan, who had feared that the second coming of the music and foodie fest would leave the park in ruins. “I have lived next to the park for almost 15 years and this is the worst shape I have ever seen the Nethermead.”

The destruction came despite the fact that the “rain-or-shine” event was shortened by one day due to inclement weather, say activists who said just two days was enough to get the damage done.

“It’s only going to get

worse because of the rain,” said Geoffrey Croft, president of the New York City Park Advocates, who claimed that the wreckage offsets the \$75,000 rental fee that goes to the Prospect Park Alliance, which manages the park. “It’s just not worth it.”

Organizers recently finished packing up after the festival that boasted food stands from 85 New York restaurants and musical performances from an array of big-time bands even though, as of last Thursday, some trucks were still left on the park’s drive.

The Alliance, which brought in GoogaMooga to generate funds for the park’s upkeep and programs, said



Photo by Seth Kaplan

The damage that the Great GoogaMooga left behind on Prospect Park started to show while organizers packed and cleaned.


that it is in the process of photographing and documenting the damages caused by the extravaganza, which was sponsored by the promoter Superfly Presents.

“Now that Superfly has almost completed their event load-out, we have begun our initial landscape assessment,” said a spokesman for the Alliance. “Working

closely with Superfly over the next week, we will develop a plan to address the damage.”

Superfly organizers said that they will pay to fix whatever damage was done.

“It’s a top priority of Superfly’s to restore the park from any damage caused by the festival,” said a Superfly representative.



Feasts of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary

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St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

Schedule of Events

Four Day Mission by Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (MSC)
7PM each evening at Sacred Hearts – St. Stephen Church
125 Summit St. Bklyn, NY 11231

Mon, June 3, Heart of Jesus: Way, Truth and Life, Bernadette Casciano, MSC
Tues, June 4, Heart of Jesus: The True Vine, Barbara Leonardo, MSC
Wed, June 5, Heart of Jesus: Savior and Redeemer,* Bernadette Anello, MSC
* with opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thurs, June 6, Heart of Jesus: Hope of the World, Diane Olmstead, MSC

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Fri, June 7
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 1–6pm, SHSS Church, 125 Summit St.
Procession to Mother Cabrini Park, 6:45pm, from SHSS Church, 125 Summit St.
Open-Air Mass at Mother Cabrini Park 7pm, 45 President St., Bklyn, NY 11231

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sat, June 8
Mass followed by refreshments 8:30am, SHSS Church, 125 Summit St.

For more information visit SacredHearts-StStephen.com or call 718-596-7750

An end to the war on brunch?

Council to vote on allowing eating outdoors before noon on Sunday

By **Danielle Furfaro**
The Brooklyn Paper

There may soon be an armistice in the War on Brunch.

A law that bans wobbly Brooklynites from nursing their hangovers on city sidewalks before noon on Sunday would be obliterated if a bill scheduled to go before the council next month is passed.

Until then, restaurants that dare to serve patrons on sidewalks before high-noon on the day of rest risk getting ticketed for the illegal action, a fact that a Williamsburg councilman says needs to be changed.

“It’s totally common sense,” said Steve Levin. “I’m not even sure why it’s a law.”

That’s why Levin is co-sponsoring the bill to nix



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The war on brunch may soon come to an end, allowing brunchers to nurse their hangovers in the sun a few hours earlier without fear of repercussions.

the obscure law that’s been on the books since at least the 1970s, but only became relevant when restaurants in Williamsburg began being hit by

the city for breaking it.

“It wasn’t a big deal until people started getting fined,” Levin said.

In fact, 9t was all quiet

on the Brooklyn front until last year, when Community Board 1 member Tom Burrows began encouraging the city to crack down on pre-noon brunch scofflaws.

Burrows said having Sunday brunchers on the sidewalk before noon prevented worshippers from getting to church.

That prompted cops to ticket two restaurants forcing them to stop serving brunch outside until the sun was directly overhead.

“We had no choice,” said Kathy Mecham, who owns Five Leaves restaurant on Bedford Avenue at Lorimer Street. “Once you get the fine, if you don’t comply, they start looking for other things.”

As soon as the law is changed, though, Mecham

says she’ll go back to putting the tables out at 8 am.

“It’s not like we have people out there at 3 am making noise,” she said. “These are people with strollers who want to enjoy the nice weather before the crowds come out.”

Even leaders of local churches said the old law was lame.

said she thought the reasoning that pre-noon outdoor brunchers kept worshippers from church was lame.

“We love churching so much, the allure of brunch does not stop us,” said Pastor Ann Kansfield of the Greenpoint Reformed Church. “Brunching does not stop churching.”

Burrows did not return calls for comment.

The council has not yet scheduled a vote.

Cops: ‘Dollar bandit’ has been caught

By **Natalie Musumeci**
The Brooklyn Paper

A teenage boy who robbed or attempted to rob six young school kids of \$1 at knifepoint during a two-day crime spree is in custody, a police source said, although he is yet to be

charged with a crime.

Police suspect he is responsible for a recent string of armed robberies involving victims between the ages of 12 and 16 as they headed to and from school in Carroll Gardens and Red Hook, the source

said. The source could not confirm the suspect’s age or provide any details on how the teen was apprehended.

Officers say a thief has been approaching boys on their way to school, whipping out a knife or a box-cut-

ter, and demanding \$1 in a series of attempted and successful robberies on May 20 and May 22.

Law enforcement officials said that later that day, about 4:50 pm, the suspect approached a 16-year-old boy on

Hamilton Avenue near Centre Street, flashed a box-cutter, and again demanded \$1. The victim managed to hold onto his cash and run away, police said.

None of the victims were hurt, according to police.



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Boat’s b-day bash

Red Hook arts space opens up for special party

By **Natalie Musumeci**
The Brooklyn Paper

A beloved Depression-era tanker that is used as an arts space celebrated its 75th birthday last week, when those that have loved her from afar finally got a chance to get inside.

The Mary A. Whalen, a 613-ton, 172-foot-long vessel was opened to the public for the first time in nearly three years for a special party on May 21, the same day that it was launched in 1938.

“We’re really thrilled that the ship was able to be accessible,” said Carolina Salguero, the director of PortSide New York, a maritime education group that has been headquartered on the tanker since 2007. Salguero is responsible for turning the vessel into an education and cultural center. PortSide sponsored the celebration.

The ship, which spent most of its career delivering fuel to other boats up and down the East Coast, was taken out service in 1993. It’s usually docked at the Red Hook container terminal, but because the terminal is an active shipping port, federal security regulations limit the amount of people who can visit it.

For the tanker’s impromptu birthday bash, the ship was able to secure a position at Pier 11 on the Atlantic Basin, before being towed back to the container port.

Dozens of boat lovers,



Maya Degnemark, Amelia Walsh, Leo Walsh, and Millen Degnemark came out to celebrate tanker Mary A. Whalen’s 75th birthday on May 21.

neighbors, former crew members, parrots, and, of course, shirtless male dancers, boarded the vessel to commemorate one of the few remaining symbols of Red Hook’s once-thriving maritime past.

Visitors received birthday cake and were able to roam the historic tanker. Its big, semi-circular galley is equipped with a cast iron diesel burning stove, patented in 1918, and a wood-paneled freezer and refrigerator.

“There’s a lot of antique stuff,” said Salguero, who bought the ship in 2006 for \$16,500. “She’s an old noble boat—there’s something special about her.”

The Whalen is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and considered the only oil tanker cultural space in the world.

The boat has been used as a swaying stage for opera, historic tours, and other cultural activities over the years. However, the ship’s offerings are limited when it’s docked in the container terminal because only five visitors are allowed on the vessel at a time. And, they have to be escorted by Salguero, she said.

Salguero has big plans to make the tanker an accessible educational exhibit. She is currently in negotiations with concrete ti-

tan John Quadrozzi Jr. of Gowanus Bay Terminal in Red Hook for a new home for the tanker.

“We would be publicly accessible and we could do everything we intend to do with the boat,” she said, adding that if the tanker made the move to Gowanus Bay Terminal visitors could easily board directly from Columbia Street.

Salguero also said that moving to Quadrozzi’s property would help PortSide draw in school field trips and kick start other educational programming.

“We hope to be there for summer,” she said. “We’re very excited.”

PICK UP A PET

Huge pet adoption event this weekend

By **Kelly Haight**
for The Brooklyn Paper

The dog days of summer are coming early this year.

Homeless pets can be adopted for free at the Sean Casey Animal Rescue in Kensington this weekend in what is being billed as the largest pet adoption event in New York City.

“The free adoption days are helpful to us because we’ll get a lot of these animals out and into homes, so we can take more in,” said Sean Casey, who runs the animal rescue. “Adoptions drop



this time of year and intakes go up, so it’s a great event and the timing is perfect.”

All the furry friends have been spayed, neutered, mi-

crochipped and vaccinated. Pets adopted from the Sean Casey Animal Rescue also get a month of health insurance and a free check up at a veterinarian who works with the animal rescue.

“We’re at max capacity and we can’t take in anymore,” said Casey. “Hopefully, we’ll get a lot of animals into homes this weekend so we can get more animals off the streets.”

Brooklynites can also adopt pets for free at the Brooklyn Animal Care Center on Linden Boulevard.

The Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals, a group that works with more than one hundred no-kill animal shelters, is hosting this weekend’s adoption days with Maddie’s Fund, a family foundation based in California, which also advocates for no-kill shelters. During “Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days,” adoptions are completely free and paid for by Maddie’s Fund.

Maddie’s Pet Adoption Days, Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2, at Sean Casey Animal Rescue [153 East Third Street, between Fort Hamilton Parkway and Caton Avenue, (718) 436-5163] and Brooklyn Animal Care Center [2336 Linden Boulevard, between Shepherd Avenue and Essex Street, (212) 788-4000]



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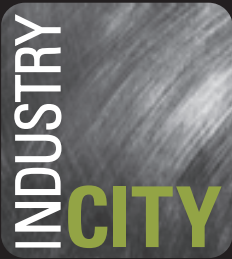
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Forget the tip, man steals taxi

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Police cuffed a 50-year-old man who they say stole a livery cab after he flagged it down on Seventh Avenue on May 25.
The 25-year-old driver told cops that the suspect hailed down his taxi between Eighth and Ninth streets and asked to go to Williamsburg at 3 am.
When the victim went to place the alleged crook's bags in the trunk, the suspect — who faces a charge of grand larceny — jumped in the driver's seat and drove off with the victim's iPhone still in the vehicle, police reported.

Car unlocked
A thief broke into a car parked on Sackett Street and made off with a bunch of goods on May 21.
The 58-year-old victim told police that he left his black Jeep on the street between Third and Fourth avenues at 8 pm with his belongings still inside. When he returned about an hour later his three books, prescription eyeglasses, and wallet holding credit cards were missing.
The car windows were not broken, according to a police report. The victim told police that he was unsure if the rear door was locked.

Teen trouble
Cops arrested two teenagers who they say mugged a man while he was walking on 10th Street on May 21.
The 26-year-old victim told police that he was near Fourth Avenue at 9 pm when the 16- and 13-year-old suspects approached him. The 16-year-old demanded that the victim give up his cellphone, cops said. When the victim refused, the suspect punched him in the face multiple times, breaking his glasses and causing pain to the victim's face and neck, according to a police report.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
Two of a kind
Two thugs forcefully robbed a man on Gold Street on May 19, police said.
The victim said he was near Sand Street at 2 am when the two crooks walked up, asked for his belongings, showed him a gun, and punched him in the face, police said. The thieves ran away with an iPhone and \$15 in hand.
Double trouble
Two thefts occurred at a Hoyt Street department store on May 20.
• Someone stole a woman's wallet while she was shopping at the retailer.
The victim was at the store near Fulton Street at 1 pm when her young daughter ran away from her, and she ran after her. When she returned to her shopping cart, her wallet — containing \$48 and a credit card, among other items — was gone.
• At the same department store, a lingerie-loving crook tried to steal \$1,110 worth of underwear on May 20, police claim.
The merchandise, discovered by the store at 12:40 pm, allegedly included 11 panties, five bras, and four pairs of shapewear.
Hoop screams
A crook stole more than \$1000 worth of property from an athlete playing basketball in a playground on Jay Street on May 20, police said.
The baller put his items down near the court at Tilary Street at 7:45 pm to play a game of hoops. When he returned, his property — including \$320, two iPhones, and several credit cards — was gone.

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside
Phone stolen
Police arrested three teens who they say snatched the phone out of woman's hand as she was on Graham Avenue on May 15.
The victim told police that she was near Metropolitan Avenue at 1:05 pm when a teenage boy and three others ran up from behind her and grabbed her phone, injuring her right hand.
Dinner special
A brazen thief stole a woman's jacket and purse right off her chair while she was eating dinner in a Bedford Avenue restaurant on May 16.
The woman told police that she was enjoying a meal at an eatery near N. Sixth Street at 7:26 pm when she felt someone bump into her. She turned around to see a man grabbing her jacket and purse off the back of her chair.
The thief then ran out the door and police have not tracked him down.
iPhone theft
An 18-year-old was arrested for grabbing a woman's iPhone on Meeker Avenue on May 20.
The woman told police she was near Manhattan Avenue at 3:15 pm and was using her iPhone to play music.
Two teenagers ran out from behind, shoved her to the ground, and grabbed the phone out of her hand, she told police. The second teen allegedly grabbed the phone from the ground and both ran off.
The victim chased one of them until police showed up and arrested him.

Cut to...
Police cuffed a 15-year-old who they say robbed a man with a box-cutter in the Carroll Street subway station on May 22.
The victim said he was at the station at 7:50 am when the teen asked for money, but he didn't cooperate until he saw the weapon.
Slice of life
A 25-year-old woman was arrested for wildly threatening another person with a knife on Mill Street on May 23.
The threat occurred near Henry streets at 5:50 pm, cops said.

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The man has been charged with robbery.
Cut and run
Police arrested an 18-year-old for stealing an iPhone out of a woman's hand on Haver-meyer Street on May 20.
The 34-year-old woman told cops she was near N. Seventh Street at 1:03 pm when the teen grabbed the phone out of her hand and pushed her to the ground. He then ran towards the Metropolitan Avenue train station, where he was caught by police.

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick
Wallet theft
Police arrested a 24-year-old man who they say stole a Grand Street restaurant patron's wallet on May 26.
According to police, the victim was at the eatery between Bedford and Driggs avenues at 2 pm when the wallet — which contained credit and debit cards, a YMCA membership card, and an Israeli driver's license — went missing.
The suspect was arrested on May 27 near Broadway and Marcy Avenue at 1:04 am when an officer allegedly caught him drinking beer on an MTA platform. According to police, the defendant had the stolen wallet with him at the time.
He is facing charges of grand larceny, petit larceny, criminal possession of the stolen property and consumption of alcohol in public.
Right in the eye
Police arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly punching a woman in the face on Stagg Walk on May 1.
The victim told police that she was between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street at 2 am when the defendant punched her in the eye.
The Brooklyn district attorney's office charged the man with assault, attempted assault, menacing and harassment.
— **Danielle Furfaro**

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Two thefts occurred at a Hoyt Street department store on May 20.
• Someone stole a woman's wallet while she was shopping at the retailer.
The victim was at the store near Fulton Street at 1 pm when her young daughter ran away from her, and she ran after her. When she returned to her shopping cart, her wallet — containing \$48 and a credit card, among other items — was gone.
• At the same department store, a lingerie-loving crook tried to steal \$1,110 worth of underwear on May 20, police claim.
The merchandise, discovered by the store at 12:40 pm, allegedly included 11 panties, five bras, and four pairs of shapewear.
Hoop screams
A crook stole more than \$1000 worth of property from an athlete playing basketball in a playground on Jay Street on May 20, police said.
The baller put his items down near the court at Tilary Street at 7:45 pm to play a game of hoops. When he returned, his property — including \$320, two iPhones, and several credit cards — was gone.

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook
Whip it good
A 49-year-old man was arrested for cracking a whip on Court Street on May 22.
Police say the man was near Luquer Street at 11:30 am when he swung his Indiana Jones-like accoutrement, scaring about 10 to 15 pedestrians who walked away from him in fear of his 10-foot weapon.

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside
Phone stolen
Police arrested three teens who they say snatched the phone out of woman's hand as she was on Graham Avenue on May 15.
The victim told police that she was near Metropolitan Avenue at 1:05 pm when a teenage boy and three others ran up from behind her and grabbed her phone, injuring her right hand.
Dinner special
A brazen thief stole a woman's jacket and purse right off her chair while she was eating dinner in a Bedford Avenue restaurant on May 16.
The woman told police that she was enjoying a meal at an eatery near N. Sixth Street at 7:26 pm when she felt someone bump into her. She turned around to see a man grabbing her jacket and purse off the back of her chair.
The thief then ran out the door and police have not tracked him down.
iPhone theft
An 18-year-old was arrested for grabbing a woman's iPhone on Meeker Avenue on May 20.
The woman told police she was near Manhattan Avenue at 3:15 pm and was using her iPhone to play music.
Two teenagers ran out from behind, shoved her to the ground, and grabbed the phone out of her hand, she told police. The second teen allegedly grabbed the phone from the ground and both ran off.
The victim chased one of them until police showed up and arrested him.

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Geraldo tree lives!

News personality replaces tree in McCarren Park

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The Geraldo tree lives again.

Six months after a tree planted by television’s Ger- aldo Rivera was ripped from the ground by Hurri- cane Sandy, the Fox news star returned to his boy- hood neighborhood to plant a new spruce.

Rivera donated \$1,800 to the city’s Million Trees NYC program to cover the cost of planting a replacement tree in the same spot, near the dog run at McCarren Park.

“When I heard this tree in my homeboy park had fallen and that the kids were devas- tated by its demise, I couldn’t wait to get it back up and get it growing,” said Rivera, before he shoveled soil around the base of the evergreen.

The blue spruce fell during Hurricane Sandy, and tree afi- cionados lamented the death of what was known to a few as the “Geraldo tree.” But no one could prove for sure that Rivera was truly involved in the planting of that tree.

It turns out that he was.

Rivera said that he donated the money and planted the first tree sometime in the early 1990s, just as the city was reviving the park — one he said was a place you didn’t want to visit when he was a kid.

“Williamsburg has changed so much for the bet-



Geraldo Rivera plants a new Geraldo tree to re- place the original one he planted in the early 1990s. Hurricane Sandy tore it down last fall.

ter,” said Rivera, 69. “McCar- ren Park was such a waste- land for much of my young adulthood. You wouldn’t dare walk in here.”

That was before the

Parks Department started its arboreal program. Since 2007, the city claims it has planted more than 700,000 trees, including more than 144,000 in Brooklyn.

Born in Manhattan in 1943, Rivera and his par- ents moved to Marcy Ave- nue a year later. He attended PS 19 before moving to Long Island when he was in the fourth grade. He moved back to the borough to at- tend Brooklyn Law School. Currently, he hosts “Geraldo At Large,” a newsmagazine show on Fox, and hosts a ra- dio talk show on WABC-AM. He once held the collective attention of the American public for several hours as he opened a vault that alled- gedly belonged to Al Capone. It turned out nothing was in it, and he famously sang “Chi- cago” to end the show.

Open Space Alliance head Ed Janoff said he was happy that Rivera stepped forward to replace the tree in an area of the park where lots of peo- ple congregate.

“Between the dog run and the farmer’s market, this is a very special spot and fami- lies like to come here,” said Janoff. “This tree is the fo- cal point of this family des- tination.”

The five-year-old spruce, which is in a courtyard near the dog run, will likely have a long life ahead of it.

“This tree will grow up to a foot a year, and could be up to 40 feet tall,” said James Kaechele, development man- ager at NY Tree Trust. “Even at the five-year mark, it will be pretty impressive.”

HOUSING...

Continued from page 1

dents to move away.

“This community has lost 10,000 Latino residents in the past 10 years,” claimed An- tonio Reynoso, who is run- ning against Vito Lopez for the 34th district council seat. “That is unacceptable.”

Calls to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to confirm those numbers were not an- swered by press time.

Some Greenpoint resi- dents have been roiling in recent weeks since two de- velopers unveiled plans for more luxury condo towers on the north end of the wa- terfront.

The developer Park Tower Group wants to build “Green- point Landing,” a 10-tower

development with up to 5,500 units on Newtown Creek. Meanwhile, the Chetrit Group is planning a 30-story tower at 77 Com- mercial St. between Man- hattan and Franklin ave- nues, that would rise next to the site of a proposed city park that has been stalled for years, and some worry may never be built.

Residents added that de- velopers should consider footing the bill for the park if they wanted to get back into the community’s good graces.

“If Park Towers were really good people, they’d say ‘We’ll give you afford- able housing and the open space,’” said Community



Councilwoman Diana Reynaspeaksoutagainst Mayor Bloomberg’s pro- development policies.

Board 1 chairman Chris Olechowski. “They’d do something for the commu- nity for a change and make themselves a good name.”

Residents see the explo-

sive development along the Greenpoint waterfront — combined with Two Trees Management’s plan for 2,284 apartments proposed for and around the Domino Sugar factory in Williams- burg as further proof that the city cares more about turn- ing the neighborhoods into high-end urban wonderlands than taking care of the peo- ple who have lived there for years .

Some of those residents say that all the new devel- opment is forcing old-school landlords to reevaluate how much they can get for their old-school apartments.

“[My landlord] has tried for a long time to get me out,” said Maria Ramos, 71, who has lived in a rent-stabilized apartment on Green Street for 30 years. “She wants some- one with more money.”



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Court ok’s Hurst garbage depot

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

A State Supreme Court justice scrapped Assemblyman Bill Colton’s hopes of keeping a city trash transfer terminal off of Gravesend Bay.

Justice Bert Bunyan dismissed the pol’s claims that the facility proposed for the

foot of Bay 41st Street — which will collect Southern Brooklyn’s household garbage and ship it to an undecided landfill location — would lay waste to the surrounding neighborhood. He signaled for the city to go ahead with its plans.

Colton (D–Bensonhurst) and his supporters argued

that construction of the waterfront processing station would release long-dormant toxins such as arsenic and pesticides left behind by a city trash incinerator that occupied this spot decades ago. The assemblyman also warned that the plan would clog nearby streets with garbage trucks delivering trash to the facility,

and could lead to the accidental detonation of anti-aircraft shells dumped in the bay 50 years ago when a military transport ship flipped over in the water.

“This is a dangerous plan,” the pol said last year when he filed a lawsuit to get an injunction against the plant. “The city has not taken the

proper precaution and this is not the place to build it.”

Bunyan tossed Colton’s concerns, arguing that the city would take precautions to protect the neighborhood when building the facility, and that the years when the incinerator was in operation proved that traffic would not be a problem.

“The petitioner’s position is untenable,” Bunyan said in his decision.

But the justice did declare that the city has not been completely up front with the public during the planning process, and ordered the Department of Sanitation to post all updates about the construction and maintenance of the station on its website going forward. In his decision, the justice said this would prevent future lawsuits.

“Transparency through timely and adequate disclosure is necessary as a prophylactic measure designed to ward off any future litigation about this project,” Bunyan wrote.

Colton said he found Bunyan’s demand for greater clarity and candidness from the Department of Sanitation encouraging. He was unsure if he would appeal the ruling — though he vowed to continue the battle in some form.

“We’re going to continue to fight the garbage station,” said Colton. “But we might fight it by accepting the



Waste transfer station opponent Mel Gagliano points to the terminal’s proposed location.

Here’s how the city will take your trash far away

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The city’s plan to install a waste transfer station at the foot of Bay 41st Street in Bath Beach has left one question on Brooklynites’ minds — what the heck is a waste transfer station?

The Department of Sanitation’s plan would bring garbage-carrying, “low-smoke diesel fuel” trucks down Bay Parkway to a nine-story, 200-foot-long, 200-foot-wide building (about half the size of a city block in midtown Man-

hattan) that will be depressurized to help keep smells from escaping.

Each day up to 2,106 tons of household garbage from the surrounding area — the weight of about 525 full-grown elephants — will be brought into the building, where trucks will ride up to an elevated “tipping floor.” The vehicles will then pour their burdens onto a slightly lower “loading floor,” where a plow will push the trash into shipping containers atop wheeled cars at ground level.

A tamping device will

compact the trash and another machine will press airtight lids onto the bins. The containers will be wheeled outdoors, where a crane will load them onto barges on the bay. The barges will carry the trash to an as-yet undecided landfill.

But that’s not all.

To protect the Marine Basin Marina, which will sit right next to the station site, and to prevent tug boats from straying too far from the facility, the city will install a wall-in-the-water that it says will resemble a picket

fence — only it will be the length of a football field, and made of steel pilings and rubber bumpers.

To accommodate the barges, the city will have to scoop the silt from the water floor 20 feet deep and 300 feet out — which plan opponents argue will release buried toxins that the old trash incinerator left behind. Some have even suggested the dredging could set off old unexploded anti-aircraft shells left after a military transport ship capsized there in 1954.

But the state Department of Environmental Conservation dismissed such concerns because of the lack of evidence, and approved the city’s plan last year.

“No substantive and significant issue has been raised,” state commissioner Joseph Martens said.

The garbage depot won’t be the only one in Brooklyn. The city is nearing completion of a similar facility on Hamilton Avenue near the Gowanus Canal, which will handle Brownstone Brooklyn’s trash.

RACKS...

Continued from page 1

had racks placed outside its front entrance. “In this particular part of Brooklyn Heights, there are so many parts that would have made more sense.”

Klein wondered why the

bikes couldn’t have been placed in Cadman Plaza Park, away from the residence. In mid-May, the building met with a representative of Councilman Steve Levin to complain about the issue, asking why

they hadn’t been consulted about the rack placement, even though he claimed residents had been promised they would be kept in the loop.

“We were told that there was extensive community outreach prior to placement of each CitiBike station,” he said in an e-mail.

“Fact is, not one person on our Board of Directors or any staff member of our building or building’s management company knew anything about this until the day the racks appeared.”

That seems to have been the city’s mode of operation.

Our sister publication, the New York Post, reported this week that the city told community boards not to hold a vote on the CitiBike installations.

To keep the insults rolling, Klein said that the installation wasn’t just unsightly —

it was dangerous.

“Our argument about the placement of this installation is that it blocks access to the main door of the building, not just from a cab when you have luggage, or your car when you are unloading shopping bags, but it also

blocks access for emergency vehicles,” he said. “This is a critical situation and rather shocking that no one thought it through. It is now necessary to walk all the way to the corner to get through.”

Those who live in Cadman Plaza West aren’t the

only Brooklyn Heights residents upset with where the city put the racks.

Residents of 150 Joralemon St., have sued the city over the racks’ placement there, claiming they get in the way during garbage collection.

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BIKES...

Continued from page 1

Chuck Reichenthal, the district manager of Community Board 13 in Coney Island. “As a means of alternative transportation, I don’t see people from Brighton or Coney hopping on a bike and going over the Brooklyn Bridge to get to work in Manhattan.”

Car advocates in the Community Board 18 area, which covers Marine Park, Mill Basin, Canarsie, and Flatbush, have long grumbled about the effect bikes have on road safety, claiming that many two-wheelers don’t know the rules of the road.

“If you drive and use a car, you know the bicyclists have no code,” said Community Board 18 district manager Dorothy Turano. “They don’t stop at lights or signs.”

And if the laws of supply and demand are any indication, its clear that the people living in the area are not interested in riding or buying bikes, according to Turano.

“There aren’t even bike places around here,” she said. “If the neighborhood doesn’t call for bike shops, that’s an indication that it doesn’t need bikes.”

But not every person living in Southern Brooklyn is against bikes.

Bay Ridge resident Bob Cassara, who claims he was booted from Community Board 10 for supporting a bike lane on 75th Street, says he’d love to see bike rentals come to his neck of the woods — but, thinks many of his neighbors don’t agree

with him.

“Absolutely would love to see it in Bay Ridge, but I don’t think it’s realistic to think it’s going to be in Bay Ridge anytime soon,” he said. “They’re going to put it in places of

high density and need, not in places where you’re going to run into opposition, like Bay Ridge.”

Not surprisingly, Ridge resident Allen Brotnick, who once lobbied the city for his

own personal parking space on a city street, thinks more bikes on the street is a bad idea.

“They have f----- traffic up so bad it’s unbelievable,” he said.

CLUB...

Continued from page 1

sufficient for the nature of the operation,” said Red Hook resident and CB6 member Lou Sones. “There already have been complaints by neighbors about noise, even before they opened.”

Dicks measured the sound inside the place with decibel system to make sure that area residents won’t be disturbed. He claimed that he has yet to hear a noise complaint.

Skeptical neighbors say

that it’s difficult to imagine that the new establishment will be any different given the history of the property’s deceitful predecessors. In 2008, the space housed a dance club called Hello Brooklyn. It was operated by a party promoter who was arrested for selling booze without a license.

“It’s hard to remain unbiased given the history of the place even though it’s a new [owner],” said CB6 member Glen Kelly. “The previous

two operators just turned it into strip clubs and the neighbors complained ... hopefully this guy is not going to go the same way, but that’s always a risk.”

Dicks previously ran a downtown jazz club called Studio 243. He said he’ll use his experience with legitimate event promotion and crowd control to succeed with Con Amore.

“That’s what separates us from whoever might have been there before,” said Dicks. “I don’t think there is anything like what we are offering in Red Hook.”

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
May 31



Lamentable comedy
Check out this production of William Shakespeare's famous play featuring a traveling band of actors, a wedding, and man whose head is turned into a donkey. Don't miss out on the indoors show before the whole thing is taken outside after this weekend.

8 pm at Saint Charles Borromeo Church [21 Sidney Pl., near the corner of Livingston Street]. \$18.

SUNDAY
June 2

Massive Mass
Ludwig Van Beethoven spent four of his last years working on this Catholic mass known as the "Missa Solemnis." A rarely performed piece, the piece comes alive as Grace and Spiritus Choral of Brooklyn perform it.

3 pm at St. Ann's Church [157 Montague St. between Clinton and Henry streets, (718) 875-6960, www.brooklyn-symphonysymphonyorchestra.org] \$15.



MONDAY
June 3



Origin of food
He saved his family's seventh generation farm, Smith Meadows, and wrote a book about how he did it. Forrest Pritchard writes about one of Brooklyn's most titillating subject matters, food and where we get it, in "Gaining Ground: A story of Farmer's Markets, Local Food, and Saving the Family Far."

7:30 at Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St., at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, greenlight-bookstore.com]. Free.

TUESDAY
June 4

Eat and read
Go to Greenpoint and enjoy the eateries offered by Brooklyn's own Little Poland and then enjoy an author reading featuring Dagmara Dmonec and her new book "The Lullaby of Polish Girls," a novel about a Polish kid in the borough and what happens when she returns to Poland.

7 pm at Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com]. Free.



WEDNESDAY
June 5



Hip lit
Staffers of indie music publication Pitchfork will DJ this book party celebrating the cult favorite Tao Lin's latest novel "Taipei." The book is about a Brooklyn writer who navigates the New York City art scene before losing interest in it, and ends up confronting his roots in Taipei, Taiwan.

7 pm at powerHouse Arena [37 Main St., at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, powerhousearena.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 31
ART, BATTLE OF BROOKLYN EXHIBIT: Battle Pass-Revolution IV, the third and last exhibit of the Proteus Gowanus Battle theme, explores the paths of the Battle of Brooklyn, featuring artists, and educators. Free! The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195], www.the-oldstonehouse.org.
SHAKESPEAREAN FESTIVAL: The 10th annual event features a performance of "Midsummer Night's Dream" and a medieval. Free. 9:45 am – 2 pm. Dyker Heights Intermediate School IS 201 [8010 12th Ave. at 80th Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 833-9363].
ART, ARTISTS WITH MONEY: A new art exhibit called "Money" is showcasing a variety of works by twelve local and international artists featuring their interpretations of currency — such as buttons instead of coins, illustrated bills worth only as much as they're beautiful, and coded money that visitors can scan with their smart phones. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Tomato House [301 Saratoga Ave. between Pacific and Dean streets in Bedford Stuyvesant, (347) 770-7813], www.tomato-house.org.
ART, "BASED ON A TRUE STORY...": Pierogi is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Daniel Zeller, in which the artist explores nuances of texture and structure which develop into powerful extensions of perceived reality using graphite or ink and acrylic on paper. Open Tuesday through Sunday. Free. 11 am–6 pm. Pierogi [177 N. 9 St. between W. John Street and W. Hoffman Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2144], www.pierogi2000.com.
FREE BEACH PARTIES ALL SUMMER LONG: Join Commander Rican Vargas and his famed Coney Island Dancers for free outdoor Boardwalk parties all summer long, with DJs spinning house, disco, soul, and funk. Free. Noon. Coney Island Boardwalk [1001 Boardwalk W, at W. 10th Street in Coney Island, (347) 496-2032], www.coneyisland-dancers.com.
ART, CANCER JOURNAL: The exhibition is organized around the recent publication of Relatively Indolent but Relentless, a graphic journal Matt Freedman wrote last Autumn about his dealings with cancer. Free. 1–6 pm. Studio10 [56 Bogart St., (718) 852-4396], www.studio10bogart.com.
MUSIC, SYMPHONIC MUSIC: The ISO Symphonic Band under the direction of Brian P. Worsdale will perform a FREE community concert. Free. 7:30 pm. New Utrecht Reformed Church [1827 84th St, at 18th Avenue in Bensonhurst].
THEATER, "THE MASTER BUILDER": His character may be wrapped up in illusory aspirations, but John Turturro remains grounded in his performance at a play at the Brooklyn



Photo by Stephanie Berger

Down to earth: John Turturro plays an ambitious architect who is brought to his knees by the child-temptress played by Wrenn Schmidt in BAM's "The Master Builder" through June 9.

Academy of Music. Starts at \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. between Ashland and Rockwell places in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.
MUSIC, CEELO GREEN: LegendFactory Live presents "Electric Soul Circus," a one-of-a-kind, custom-made show, featuring headliner Ceelo Green, as well as Busta Rhymes, Goodie Mob, Sklar Grey and a number of emerging artists. \$44-\$150. 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Fort Greene Place in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6700], www.barclayscenter.com.
Bar & Flowershop for an afternoon of delicious beer and killer grub, including BBQ pork spare ribs, baked beans, and Texas toast. \$18. 12–6 pm. Sycamore Bar & Flowershop [1118 Cortelyou Road between Coney Island and Ocean avenues in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], sycamorebrooklyn.com.
RED HOOK FEST: Rebuild, Restore, Rebirth, Resilience after Sandy is this year's theme. Dance, family friendly activities, music and a talent contest. Free. 12–7 pm. Louis J Valentino Jr. Park & Pier [Coffey St at Ferris Street in Red Hook, (845) 661-5480].

SAT, JUNE 1
YOGA FUNDRAISER: Participants will offer 108 sun salutations (or as many as feels right) at Prospect Park Lake at a fundraiser for STEPS to End Family Violence, which works to prevent domestic violence and sexual violence in families. Free. 8 am. Prospect Park [Enter at 15 Street and Prospect Park West in Prospect Park, (808) 343-1850], www.projectsurya.com.
FOOD TRUCKS: All Brooklyn line up of vendors. 11 am – 5 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], https://www.barclayscenter.com.
CELEBRATE HAITI: Discover the culture of the country and learn about the art forms. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am and 2 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.
RIB COOKOUT: Join the Sycamore

SUN, JUNE 2
MUSIC, RECORD SHOW: Brooklyn Bowl presents the Collect-i-Bowl Record Show, with over 30 dealer tables and thousands of rare and collectible vinyl records, and more. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.
THEATER, "THE MASTER BUILDER": 3 pm. See Friday, May 31.
MUSIC, CHORAL CONCERT: The Brooklyn Contemporary Chorus presents an uplifting concert, "Music of the African-American Experience," which will feature spirituals, anthems, and gospel music. \$20. 4 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene].
BOOK FAIR: Help celebrate the students at PS 502. Free. 9 am. Barnes and Noble [267 Seventh Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in

MON, JUNE 3
ELLIOTT HOLT: The author launches his book "You Are One of Them." RSVP requested. Free. 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhouse-arena.com.

TUES, JUNE 4
TALK, INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING: Panelists from creative organizations who have mastered the art of business in Brooklyn will lead a conversation focused on innovative manufacturing. RSVP by June 3. Free. 3:30 pm. Industry City [220 E. 36th St. between Second Avenue and Gowanus Expressway in Sunset Park, (718) 965-3100 X106], www.sbidc.org/organization.htm.
READING, AUTHOR READING: Nathan Schneider will be joined a medieval music ensemble Resonanda to celebrate the release of his new book, "God in Proof: The Story of a Search from the Ancients to the Internet." Free. 7–8:30 pm. Cathedral of St. Joseph [856 Pacific St. between Vanderbilt and Under-

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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Published weekly at
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Pok Pok’s perfection

Attention to detail makes Thai eatery special

By Will Levitt
for The Brooklyn Paper

These sweet, sticky chicken wings nearly fly out of the kitchen.

Foodies visit Pok Pok Ny just for the wings dubbed Ike’s Vietnamese Fish Sauce Wings (\$13.95), and there’s good reason why. It’s the sauce, which chef and founder Andy Ricker perfected through trial and error until he came to the right balance of Phu Quoc fish sauce, palm sugar and garlic, that makes them so sensational.

“Andy did a lot of traveling in Southeast Asia and Thailand, and tries to get it as authentic as possible. He wants it to be like your eating in Thailand,” said Bernie O’Brien of Pok Pok Ny, speaking on the restaurant’s take on Thai food.

Brilliantly spiced sauces and fresh Thai ingredients in every dish are the key to success at Pok Pok Ny, and there’s more flavor and pleasure in this single dish than the Columbia Waterfront in Brooklyn has ever seen. Once a server lands them on your table, you won’t put them down until every messy morsel is gone.

Good thing they’re served with wet towelettes.

Ricker brought these wings and his small Pok Pok empire east to Brooklyn after the success of his original Pok Pok in Portland. Other chef-restaurateurs might not take a chance on a district with so little foot traffic. Danny Bowien of Mission Chi-



Winging it: A runner at the Columbia Waterfront District restaurant Pok Pok Shawn McCreesh shows off the eatery’s stand-out dish, Ike’s Vietnamese Fish Sauce Wings.

nese headed for the trendier Lower East Side when looking East (where Ricker also has another outpost, Pok Pok Phat Thai). It’s surprising that Ricker set up shop on the quiet Columbia Waterfront for his East Coast

reincarnation of the original.

“In Portland, Pok Pok was in the middle of nowhere and it grew the area,” said O’Brien. “They were looking for something similar in Brooklyn.”

And the location doesn’t stop the lines from forming outside the front door night after night. And though the wait can be lengthy and dining room is small and cramped, every dish, every smell, every taste and ev-

ery sight is more agreeable than the next. Once you’ve wiped your fingers clean of the wings, head towards a few vegetable-based dishes. The refreshing Papaya Pok Pok (\$9.25) is a must, a bright and spicy salad of green papaya, tomato, long beans, Thai chili, dried shrimp and peanuts dressed in a long list of ingredients including tamarind, fish sauce and lime juice. Another vegetable-based dish, the Yam Makheau Yao (\$14.95), with charcoal grilled eggplant, boiled egg, pork, prawns and crispy garlic, is unfamiliar but proves wonderfully satisfying. It’s these dishes with many Thai ingredients at once, each with their own strengths, that makes the food so standout. Both dishes are the perfect counterpart to an order of Kaeng Hung Leh (\$14.95), which brings together fantastically tender morsels of pork belly and shoulder in a deep, smoky Burmese curry sauce. “Rich and exotically spiced,” the menu so aptly notes.

In a busy restaurant where it would be easy to overlook the details, Pok Pok Ny puts thought into even the smallest features. The drinking water is flavored with Pandanus leaf, a tradition in Northern Thailand that lends a refreshing hint of toasted rice. The servers, as enthusiastic about the food as the most loyal customers, seem dedicated to ensuring guests have a full Pok Pok experience, and adeptly guide guests through the lengthy menu. And though many of the dishes include over ten individual components, each plate is carefully composed, the flavors right on target.

With so much success on the Columbia Waterfront, the restaurant now has plans to open a bar down the street. Seems like the transformative power of authentic Thai food to grow a community is working.

“Pok Pok is a great boost for the community,” said O’Brien. “They’ve welcomed us with open arms.”



Like the desert wind: Musicians John Convertino and Joey Burns are the brains and hearts behind Tucson-based Calexico, a band that channels world music and atmospheric experimentalism.

Music on the border

Calexico to play Prospect Park band shell

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Park is far from the desert, but for one night this spring, the sounds of the arid southwest will pulse through Brooklyn.

Calexico, the standard bearer of indie rock played through the lens of spaghetti westerns, mariachi and 1950s jazz, will hit the stage on June 15 in one of the first Celebration Brooklyn shows of the season.

Calexico fits in with other moody, world-music influenced groups like Beirut, the National and Black Heart Procession. The band plays intricately-composed atmospheric songs with narratives steeped in Americana that sound like they were born

next to a tumbleweed.

For their latest album “Algiers” the band holed up in a recording studio in an old church by the Mississippi River in New Orleans. Their latest album is named after a neighborhood in that mythic city.

“We let the vibe of the place and being that close to the river makes its way into the record,” said drummer John Convertino. “It gets in your bones.”

Guitarist Joey Burns and Convertino formed Calexico in 1995 after working with a handful of alt-country bands. At first, they worked with a cadre of studio and touring musicians but now they have a steady lineup that includes stand-up bass, keyboards and horns.

Convertino said he is influenced

by early 20th century jazz and country music, while Burns is obsessed with world music.

“Anywhere we go around the world, the first thing he wants to do is find the record store and hear what the local musicians are doing,” Convertino said of Burns.

The band often brings guests onstage with them, especially to tackle many of their Spanish language songs. This time, they will have Spanish signer and guitarist Jairo Zavala, who also goes by Depedro.

Calexico with Susana Baca and Radio Jarocho & Akoko Nante Ensemble at the Prospect Park band shell (Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope. (718) 683-5600. June 15, 7 pm, \$3 suggested.

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BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

Sunday evening, I stopped by stylish cocktail spot Huckleberry:

Are you here for "Yes, Moam?"

No- what's that?

It's a body-positive queer dance party!

It's a private event.

Oh.

But I can let you in if you answer a riddle!

What gets wetter as it dries?


Um... a martini?

No, but I like that -go on in!

Okay.

Actual answer: a towel!

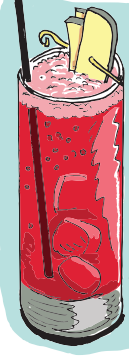
The ladies inside seemed to be having a good time ...



But I was here for the new "Brooklyn State of Mind" drink menu, featuring liquors from six Brooklyn-based distillers. (Brooklyn Gin, Due North Rum, El Buho Mezcal, Owney's Rum, No. 4 Vodka, and Sorel Hibiscus Liqueur).


I haven't tried them all (yet) but I can recommend:

"Kumbayah Cooler" w/Sorel, apple brandy, lemon, +maple syrup




light+ sweet

"Believe the Hype" Due North Rum, sherry, amaro, +apricot



strong!

and "Owls Are Not What They Seem." w/ El Buho Mezcal, sherry, tequila, maple syrup, + grapefruit juice



smoky+ well-balanced

Each is \$11.

Huckleberry Bar [588 Grand St., between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8555. www.huckleberrybar.com]. Open Mon–Thu, 4 pm–2 am; Fri, Sat, 4 pm–4 am; Sun, 1 pm–2 am.

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A lady and the tramp

Romance between a real estate agent and artist

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

There's nothing like gentrification to spark some romance.

In her first-ever self-published book, "Million Dollar View," author Silver Krieger explores the ever-changing demographics of New York City through a story about a real estate agent tasked with clearing out a Park Slope building of its artsy women residents who live above a beloved lesbian bar, to make way for a high-rise condo development.

But the agent finds himself in a tight predicament when he falls in love with a rebellious painter who has no intention of moving out.

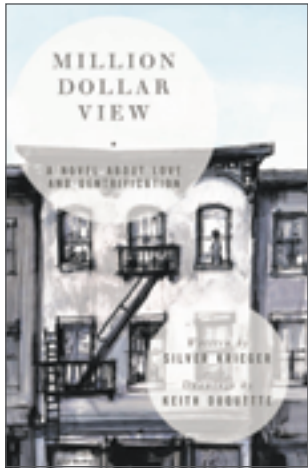
"I wanted to write a romantic comedy and this is how it came out with little social, political implications," said the native Manhattanite, who lived in Park Slope for 16 years before moving to Sunset Park more than a year ago.

Krieger said that developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards megaproject that sparked a real estate battle over Brooklyn and displaced a number of area residents and businesses partly inspired her to start penning the 186-page novel three years ago.

"The Atlantic Yards controversy was so front-and-center for so long that it made the issue of gentrification hard to get away from," she said.



Love in a time of gentrification: Native New Yorker Silver Krieger penned a comedic novel dubbed "Million Dollar View" about a changing Park Slope neighborhood.



The character most closely echoes Krieger, she said.

"Some of the rants the character goes on are definitely me more than anyone else," said Krieger, who added that the Park Slope building in the story is supposed to be on Fifth Avenue somewhere between Ninth and Union streets. The layout of the ground level bar is inspired by Fifth Avenue's Ginger's Bar, she added.

The book makes references and unfolds scenes in real-life Fifth Avenue businesses like Blue Ribbon Restaurant, Al Di La Trattoria, and the Gowanus Canal area. The novel also makes hints to the corporatization of the neighborhood through the mention of Seventh Avenue's Starbucks and Barnes and Noble.

"This book is about exploring about what I think beyond the black and white issues," said Krieger, whose prose is accompanied by 12 drawings by Brooklyn artist Keith DuQuette.

"I would like people to be able to get a little bit of humorous respite from the difficult complications of an issue like [gentrification] and hope that I'm able to illuminate some of the different aspects and different angles of general concern."

Silver Krieger's "Million Dollar View," at Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com]. \$14.95.

ARTS...

Continued from page 7

Art connoisseurs have three days to check out the thousands of pieces of art on display. And with nearly 600 shows, there's not enough time to see everything, but there are a few not to be missed. For a full list of

studios and shows and their locations visit www.artsin-bushwick.org.

Jen Hitchings, painting, other works at the Active Space [566 Johnson Avenue #28, near Stuart Avenue] June 1, June 2, noon–7pm. **Gwyneth Scally and Aaron Miller**, painting, photography, sculpture at studio [513 Johnson Ave. #16, between Varick and

Porter avenues] June 1, June 2, noon–7pm. **Helen Dennis**, performance, photography, at studio [54 Knickerbocker Ave. #4B, between Grattan Street and Harrison Place]. June 1, noon–7 pm, event at 4 pm, June 2, noon–7 pm. **Robin E. Mork**, drawings, other works [317 Harman St. #2R, between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues] May 31,

9 am–11 pm, June 1, noon–9 pm, June 2, noon–7 pm. **Dennis McNett**, installation, new media, sculpture, other works at studio [41 Varick Ave. #415, between Harrison Place and Ingraham Street] June 1, June 2, noon–7pm. **Andrea Burgay**, collage, sculpture, installation at Myrtle Avenue Studios [1465 Myrtle Ave. 2nd floor, between Bleek-

er and Menahan streets]. June 1, June 2, noon–7pm. **"Rock Street 2013: Sculpture on Rock Street"** installation and sculpture at Frank Brunchhorst Company, LLC [Boar's Head Distribution Plant, Rock Street between Bogart Street and Morgan Avenue] June 1, 10 am–noon, reception 3–5 pm, and June 2 noon–6pm.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

hill avenues in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-1071]. **THEATER, "THE MASTER BUILDER"**: 7:30 pm. See Friday, May 31.

WED, JUNE 5

READING, MEMOIR READING: Leanne Shapton will be reading and signing her National Book Critics Circle Award-winning

memoir, "Swimming Studies." **Free.** 6 pm. Pilgrim + Surf Supply [68 N. 3rd St. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7456], www.pilgrimandsurfsupply.com.

DANCE, BALLET PERFORMANCE: Brooklyn Ballet welcomes back some of the dance world's budding stars during a celebratory performance by young alumni from its Elevate program for public schools. \$10-\$250. 7 pm. The Actors Fund Arts Center [160 Schermerhorn Street between Smith and Hoyt streets in Downtown

Brooklyn, (718) 246-0146], brooklynballetcompany.ticketleap.com.

THURS, JUNE 6

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF: Hidden Treasures starts off the summer season with an all day fun fest featuring the cast of Broadway's Spider Man. Children enjoy a performance, a special reading and take memento photos with the web-slinger himself. **Free.** 10:30 am–3:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central

branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/library_detail.jsp?branchpageid=265.

THEATER, "THE MASTER BUILDER": 7:30 pm. See Friday, May 31.

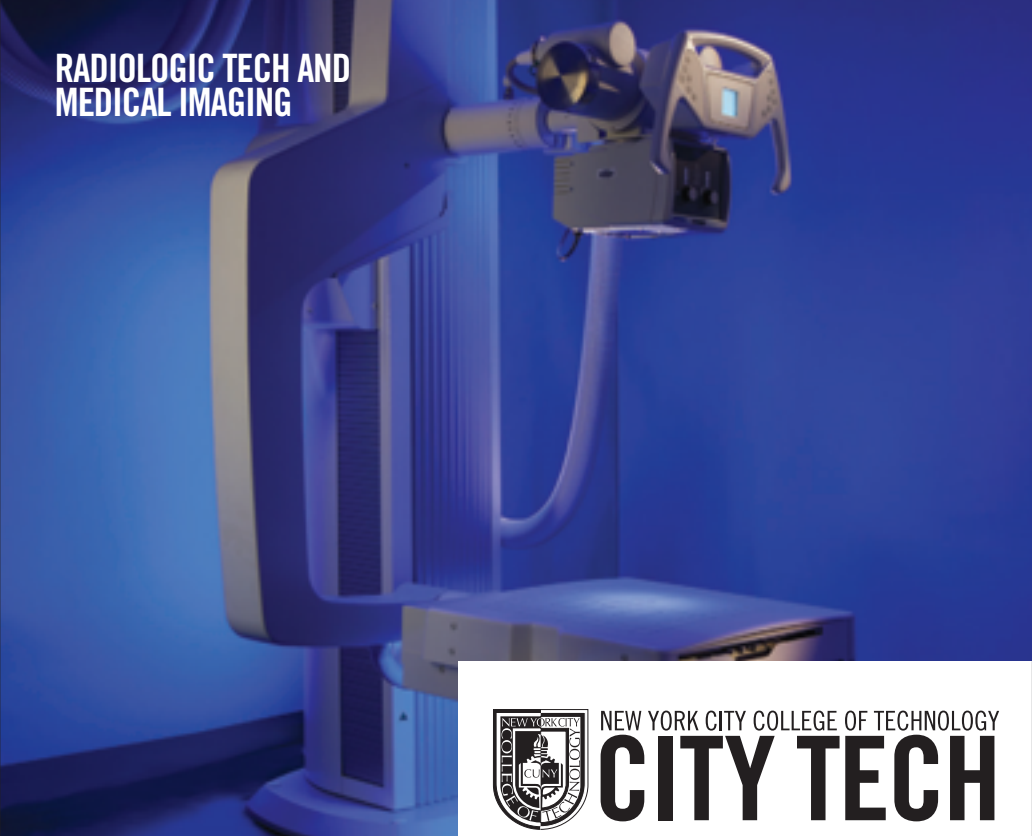
FRI, JUNE 7


CONCERT, DAVID BINDMAN ENSEMBLE: David Bindman, Wes Brown, Art Hiraehara, Frank London, Reut Regev, and Chris DiMeglio perform. **Free.**

SAT, JUNE 8


RECYCLING FAIR: Plant and veggie sale, compost soil pick up, drop and swap clothing, small appliances, sports and dance equipment, and student performances. **Free.** 10 am–4 pm. New Voices Middle School, MS 443 [330 18th St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in South Park Slope, (917) 586-5724].

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DENTAL HYGIENE AND RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

An app from the bridge

By **Jaime Lutz**
The Brooklyn Paper

Finally! An app about the Brooklyn Bridge built by a descendant of the builders of the Brooklyn Bridge!

The great-great grandson of the husband-and-wife team that led the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge has joined with his wife to build a smartphone app that tells the story of Brooklyn's most iconic structure from the time it was conceived until today.

Kristian Roebling has teamed with his wife to design "Roebling's Brooklyn Bridge Tour," which is available for \$1.99 in the Apple AppStore and Google Play. It includes a map of interesting features of



the Bridge, a gallery of historical archives, and a video-and-audio tour of the New York City landmark, which opened in 1883 — filling a gap that

has left many iPhone users without a tool to easily learn about the Bridge.

"I was disappointed to find that my ancestor's bridge wasn't very effectively represented in the app world," he said. "My wife and I set out to create a truly comprehensive, flexible and multi-functional Brooklyn Bride tour app for people who want to explore and learn about the Bridge using their phones rather than tour books or live guides."

The tour is narrated by Roebling, a Brooklyn Bridge historian, documentary filmmaker, and trustee of the Roebling Museum, which includes some family history mixed in with the architectural details.

Like the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, the app was made by a husband and wife team. Roebling's spouse, Meg Pullis, provided the app design — something, Roebling said, that would have "thrilled 'Washy' and Emily."

Washington Roebling took over as chief engineer of the Bridge after his father, John Roebling, died from lock-jaw after his foot was crushed while standing on a piling during the early stages of construction. As chief engineer, Washington suffered from numerous cases of the bends which left him mostly home bound. During that time, his wife played a major role in the Bridge's completion.

CONEY...

Continued from page 1
end — bringing with it the eternal beach and attractions new and old.

Sports and frankfurter lovers got a treat on May 23, when Nathan's Famous flagship location finally reopened, seven months after Hurricane Sandy — while the new Nets store began selling Brooklyn team gear right across the street.

Brooklyn's favorite hot dog closed for the first time in its 96-year history because of the severe damage it suffered during last year's superstorm. But Nathan's spokesman, beloved hot dog-eating contest host, and presumptive candidate for Brooklyn Borough President George Shea said it was worth it, because the restaurant is sharper-looking and more spacious than ever.

"They restored the Coney Island Nathan's Famous experience, but they were also able to make it better," said

Shea, adding it was great to be back in the People's Playground. "Summer is the best season by far of the year, and there is no place better to be than the Boardwalk and the beach, and Coney Island is the best beach destination in the world."

At Stillwell Avenue and Bowery Street, inside the new corner building constructed by Thor Equities, the Nets opened their first outpost beyond the Barclays Center. Brett Yorkmark, the team's chief executive officer, was on hand to sing the praises of Sodom by the Sea — and to express his desire to help the storm-shattered neighborhood.

"Coney Island is synonymous with summers in Brooklyn and we're excited to be part of such an iconic neighborhood," said Yorkmark. "We also know that the Coney Island community is working hard to recover from Hurricane Sandy. We want to provide another

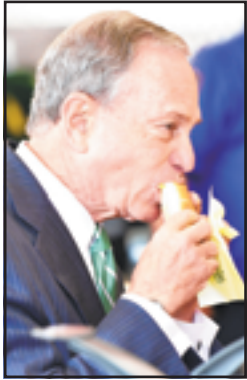


Photo by Paul Martinka

Mayor Bloomberg broke his own health recommendations for a day to eat a Nathan's hot dog.

economic engine that can further spark commerce by encouraging people to visit this wonderful area."

And the fun didn't stop there. May 24 marked the re-opening of the beach, the New York Aquarium, and the long-awaited debut of the antique B&B Carousel.

The New York Aquarium celebrated its emergence from Sandy's ocean surge — which left the 50-year-old facility treading water — with a special sea lion show at its restored Aquatheater.

A good part of the marine menagerie at W. Eighth Street and Surf Avenue remains shuttered from Sandy damage, but its leaders said they wanted to have some of Brooklyn's fishbowl open to be part of Brooklyn's 2013 summer experience.

"We have worked nonstop to ensure that the marine life in the aquarium was safe and secure. We want to share this progress with New Yorkers

and be a part of the Coney Island comeback following Hurricane Sandy," said Cristian Samper, president of the Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the aquatic exhibit.

Just blocks away on the Boardwalk, at the foot of the Parachute Jump, Coney Island faithful cheered the rebirth of a piece of People's Playground history — the 94-year-old B & B Carousel. The hand carved horse ride revolved again after a eight year rehab process, which returned the wooden chariots and steeds — which had deteriorated during the decades the attraction sat on Surf Avenue — to their former glittering glory. Mayor Bloomberg even sojourned from Manhattan to welcome the mustang merry-go-round home.

"Today marks the revival of the Coney Island amusement district that suffered during Hurricane Sandy," the mayor said. "New Yorkers and tourists alike now have even more reasons to visit Coney Island."

Hizzoner also applauded the recovery of the beach from the onslaught of the storm.

"A few months ago, our region's beaches were scenes of the tragic devastation left by Hurricane Sandy," said Bloomberg. "We promised New Yorkers that, no matter what it would take, every one of our City's beaches would be open on Memorial Day. And today, I'm very excited to make it official."

Coney's other premier attractions — Luna Park, the Cyclone, and Deno's Wonder Wheel — opened on March 24.

SOUP...

Continued from page 1
sources a lot of his ingredients locally, so it's a good fit," said Good Eggs founding farmer Josh Morgenthau.

Until Good Eggs gets its distribution up and running in Brooklyn, McCarvey is still in charge of his own deliveries. And since he refuses to ditch the heavy recyclable mason jars, he's now considering a soup-ed up bike.

"I've talked to some bike manufacturers about building me a tricycle with a locking cooler," said McCarvey, 39.

McCarvey attributes his success on his stellar soup-making methods.

"Anyone can put stock in a pot and add vegetables and call it soup," he said. "It's another thing to slow cook a pig's neck."



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